

A DISTANCE VECTOR EXTENSION TO THE ADDRESS RESOLUTION
PROTOCOL

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A method and device thereof for managing messages received at a bridging device. A bridging device receives a first message comprising a first contact information and a first distance vector representing a first number of hops the first message has traversed. The first distance vector is compared to
10 a stored second distance vector corresponding to a stored second contact information for the remote electronic device, wherein the second contact information and second distance vector are provided by a second message. The second distance vector represents a second number of hops the second message has traversed. Provided the first number of hops is greater than the
15 second number of hops, the first message is discarded. Alternatively, provided the first number of hops is not greater than the second number of hops, the second contact information and second distance vector are discarded and the first contact information and first distance vector are stored on a computer-readable memory of the bridging device. The present invention provides a
20 method and device thereof for filtering out repeat traffic at a bridging device without requiring additional messaging.